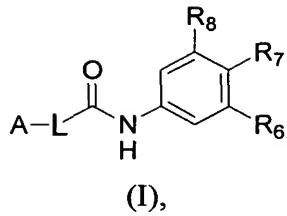


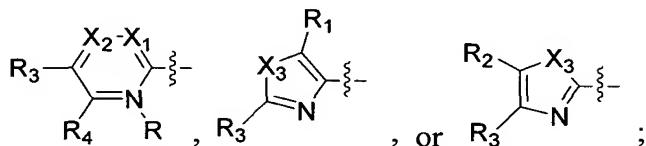
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

A is



X₁ is N or CR₁;

X₂ is N or CR₂;

X₃ is O or N;

R is absent or O;

R₁ is hydrogen, lower alkoxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkyl, lower alkylthio, lower alkynyl, lower haloalkoxy, lower haloalkyl, lower haloalkylthio, halogen, hydroxy, mercapto, nitro, or -NR_AR_B;

R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently hydrogen or halogen;

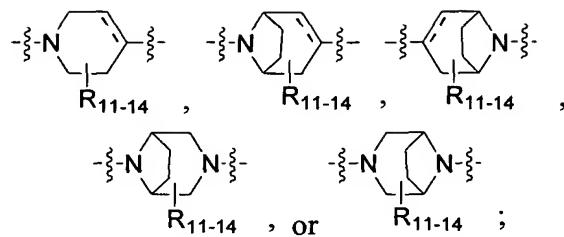
R₇ is hydrogen, alkenyl, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxsulfonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, aryloxy, arylthio, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, cycloalkylthio, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkylsulfonyl, haloalkylthio, halogen, heteroaryl, heteroarylalkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroarylthio, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, -NR_CR_D, (NR_AR_B)carbonyl, or (NR_AR_B)sulfonyl;

R₆ and R₈ are independently hydrogen, lower alkenyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, lower alkylthio, lower alkynyl, lower haloalkoxy, lower haloalkyl, lower haloalkylthio, halogen, hydroxy, mercapto, or -NR_AR_B;

R_A and R_B are independently hydrogen or alkyl;

R_C and R_D are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkynyl, or (NR_AR_B)carbonyl;

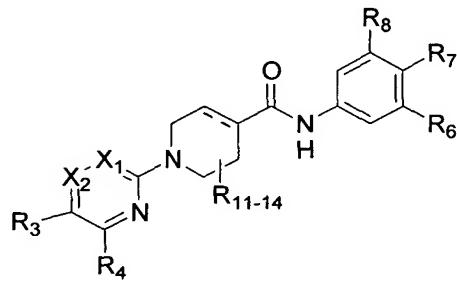
L is



--- is absent or a single bond; and

R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are independently hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, or hydroxy.

2. The compound according to claim 1 of formula (II)



(II),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

3. The compound according to claim 2 wherein

--- is a single bond;

X₁ is CR₁;

X₂ is CR₂;

R₁ is lower haloalkyl or halogen;

R₂, R₃, and R₄ are hydrogen;

R₇ is alkoxy, alkyl, alkylthio, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkylsulfonyl, haloalkylthio, halogen, or -NR_CR_D;

R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are hydrogen; and

R_C and R_D are independently hydrogen or alkyl.

4. The compound according to claim 3 that is

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-3'-chloro-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
 3'-chloro-N-(4-methylphenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
 3'-chloro-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
 3'-chloro-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;

N-(4-bromophenyl)-3'-chloro-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-(4-ethylphenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-(4-isopropylphenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-(4-propoxypyphenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-[4-(methylthio)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-(3-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-3'-(trifluoromethyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3'-(trifluoromethyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
N-[4-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-3'-(trifluoromethyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-(trifluoromethyl)-N-{4-[(trifluoromethyl)thio]phenyl}-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-(trifluoromethyl)-N-{4-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]phenyl}-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide; or
N-(3-fluoro-4-methylphenyl)-3'-(trifluoromethyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide.

5. The compound according to claim 3 that is 3'-chloro-N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide.

6. The compound according to claim 2 wherein
--- is a single bond;
 X_1 is CR_1 ;
 X_2 is CR_2 ;

R₁ is lower haloalkyl or halogen;
R₂, R₃, and R₄ are hydrogen;
R₇ is aryl or aryloxy; and
R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are hydrogen.

7. The compound according to claim 6 that is
3'-chloro-N-(4-phenoxyphenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
or
N-1,1'-biphenyl-4-yl-3'-chloro-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide.
8. The compound according to claim 2 wherein
--- is a single bond;
X₁ is CR₁;
X₂ is CR₂;
R₁ is lower haloalkyl or halogen;
R₂, R₃, and R₄ are hydrogen;
R₇ is heterocycle; and
R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are hydrogen.
9. The compound according to claim 8 that is
3'-chloro-N-[4-(1-piperidinyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
3'-chloro-N-[4-(4-morpholinyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide; or
N-[4-(1-azepanyl)phenyl]-3'-chloro-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide.
10. The compound according to claim 2 wherein
--- is a single bond;
X₁ is CR₁;
X₂ is CR₂;
R₁ is lower haloalkyl or halogen;
R₂, R₃, and R₄ are hydrogen;
R₆ is lower alkyl, lower haloalkyl, or halogen; and
R₇, R₈, R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are hydrogen.

11. The compound according to claim 10 that is
N-(3-tert-butylphenyl)-3'-chloro-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide;
or
3'-chloro-N-(3-fluorophenyl)-3,6-dihydro-2H-1,2'-bipyridine-4-carboxamide.

12. The compound according to claim 2 wherein
--- is absent;
 X_1 is CR_1 ;
 X_2 is CR_2 ;
 R_1 is lower haloalkyl or halogen;
 R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are hydrogen;
 R_7 is alkoxy, alkyl, alkylthio, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, halogen, or $-NR_C R_D$;
 R_{11} is hydrogen or hydroxy;
 R_{12} , R_{13} , and R_{14} are hydrogen; and
 R_C and R_D are independently hydrogen or alkyl.

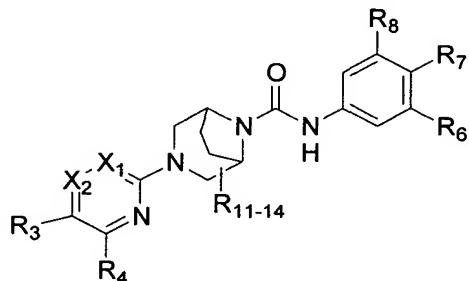
13. The compound according to claim 12 that is
N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-1-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-(cis)-3-hydroxy-4-piperidinecarboxamide;
N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-1-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-(trans)-3-hydroxy-4-piperidinecarboxamide; or
1-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-4-hydroxy-N-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-piperidinecarboxamide.

14. The compound according to claim 2 wherein
--- is a single bond;
 X_1 is N;
 X_2 is CR_2 ;
 R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are hydrogen;
 R_7 is alkoxy, alkyl, alkylthio, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkylsulfonyl, haloalkylthio, halogen, or $-NR_C R_D$;
 R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} , and R_{14} are hydrogen; and
 R_C and R_D are independently hydrogen or alkyl.

15. The compound according to claim 12 that is

N-(4-chlorophenyl)-1-pyrimidin-2-yl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine-4-carboxamide;
1-pyrimidin-2-yl-N-{4-[(trifluoromethyl)thio]phenyl}-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine-4-carboxamide; or
1-pyrimidin-2-yl-N-{4-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]phenyl}-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine-4-carboxamide.

16. The compound according to claim 1 of formula (III)



(III),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

17. The compound according to claim 16 wherein

X₁ is CR₁;
X₂ is CR₂;
R₁ is lower haloalkyl or halogen;
R₂, R₃, and R₄ are hydrogen;
R₇ is alkoxy, alkyl, alkylthio, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkylthio, halogen, or -NR_CR_D;
R₁₁, R₁₂, R₁₃, and R₁₄ are hydrogen; and
R_C and R_D are independently hydrogen or alkyl.

18. The compound according to claim 17 that is

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;
3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;
3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;

3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;

N-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;

N-(4-bromophenyl)-3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;

3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-iodophenyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;

N-(4-butylphenyl)-3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide;

3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-isopropylphenyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide; or

3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-{4-[(trifluoromethyl)thio]phenyl}-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide.

19. The compound according to claim 16 wherein

X_1 is CR_1 ;

X_2 is CR_2 ;

R_1 is lower haloalkyl or halogen;

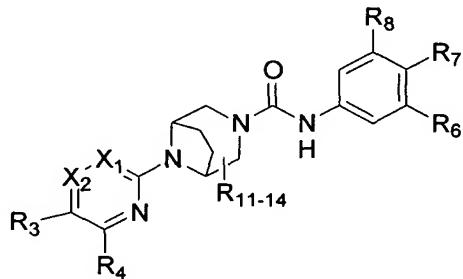
R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are hydrogen;

R_6 is lower alkyl, lower haloalkyl, or halogen; and

R_7 , R_8 , R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} , and R_{14} are hydrogen.

20. The compound according to claim 19 that is 3-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-8-carboxamide.

21. The compound according to claim 1 of formula (IV)



(IV),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

22. The compound according to claim 21 wherein

X_1 is CR_1 ;

X_2 is CR_2 ;

R_1 is lower alkyl or halogen;

R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are hydrogen;

R_7 is alkoxy, alkyl, alkylthio, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkylthio, halogen, or $-NR_C R_D$;

R_{11} , R_{12} , R_{13} , and R_{14} are hydrogen; and

R_C and R_D are independently hydrogen or alkyl.

23. The compound according to claim 22 that is

N -(4-tert-butylphenyl)-8-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-3-carboxamide; or

8-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)- N -[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,8-diazabicyclo[3.2.1]octane-3-carboxamide.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I-IV) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. A method of treating pain in a mammal, comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I-IV) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.